

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04720 162359Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
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R 162037Z NOV 77 ZFF-4  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4720

NODIS

DEPT PASS TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA MEXICO LONDON PANAMA  
AMCONSUL BELIZE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, BH, GT, UK  
SUBJ: 32ND UNGA: FOURTH COMMITTEE: BELIZE

REF: USUN 4540

THERE FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 2 THE TEXT OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE  
CONCERNING BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG ON NOVEMBER 10 (REFTEL) WHICH PRICE SENT TO YOUNG  
IN A LETTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUESTION OF BELIZE

POINTS MADE TO MR. YOUNG BY MR. PRICE

1. THE BRITISH SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED  
SOLUTION IS THE CESSION BY BELIZE OF APPROXIMATELY 300-400  
SQUARE MILES OF MAINLAND TERRITORY, WHERE APPROXIMATELY  
2,000 BELIZEANS LIVE. THE BRITISH ARE LEANING TOWARD THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF THIS SOLUTION, AND TELL BELIZE THAT THE U.S.  
ALSO FAVOURS SUCH A SOLUTION.

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2. PREMIER HAS INFORMED THE BRITISH THAT BELIZE CANNOT  
ACCEPT LAND CESSION AS A BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT, AND THE BRITISH  
ASSURED HIM THAT ANY SETTLEMENT MUST HAVE THE CONSENT OF  
THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BELIZE.

3. BELIZE MUST THEREFORE SEEK ALTERNATIVES TO LAND CESSION.  
AT THIS TIME THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES ARE APPARENT:

(A) GENERAL TORRIJOS OF PANAMA HAS SUGGESTED THAT IF HE IS GIVEN TWELVE MONTHS - WITH A COUNTDOWN - HE CAN FIND A SOLUTION. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN GUATEMALA. THE PLAN WOULD BE FOR A TEAM OF BELIZEANS, JAMAICANS AND PANAMANIAN TO LOBBY CAPITALS IN THE REGION.

(B) MEXICO'S FOREIGN MINISTER SANTIAGO ROEL HAS PUT FORWARD A MEXICAN INITIATIVE WHICH CAN BE PURSUED FURTHER. IT INVOLVES A TREATY TO WHICH MEXICO WOULD BE A PARTY AND WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE WITH ITS SOVEREIGN AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

(C) THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ARRIVE AT AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE LAND CESSION.

4. BELIZE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE BRITISH THAT ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HURT US DEEPLY, AFTER TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, WE WOULD, AS A LAST RESORT, PREFER THAT THE STATUS QUO REMAIN RATHER THAN A SOLUTION BASED ON LAND CESSION.

5. THE AREA OF BELIZE SOUTH OF THE MOHO RIVER IS NOT SWAMPY LAND. MUCH OF IT IS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, GOOD FOR AGRICULTURE. IT IS INHABITED BY ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE OF DIVERSE ETHNIC ORIGIN WHO LIVE ON THEIR FARMS AND COMMUNITIES THERE AND WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE INCORPORATED INTO

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GUATEMALA.

6. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LAND CESSION WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM, IT WOULD CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS, MEXICO WOULD REVIVE ITS DORMANT CLAIMS TO NORTHERN BELIZE IF ANY LAND WERE CEDED TO GUATEMALA. VENEZUELA WOULD COME UNDER PRESSURE TO PRESS ITS CLAIM TO PART OF GUYANA. THERE ARE MANY FRONTIER DISPUTES IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH WOULD BE EXACERBATED BY FRONTIER CHANGES IN RELATION TO BELIZE. BELIZE'S FRONTIER WITH GUATEMALA WAS RATIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL TREATY 120 YEARS AGO.

7. IF IT IS U.S. POLICY TO ENCOURAGE A SETTLEMENT BASED ON LAND CESSION, WE REQUEST THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO CHANGE THAT POLICY. IT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED BY BELIZE NOR BY MANY COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS, AND WOULD CREATE GRAVE PROBLEMS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

ENDS AIDE MEMORE END TEXT.  
LEONARD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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